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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for Haiti, and the two-year extension of the country programme for Paraguay.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to: (a) take note of the one-year country programme extension for Haiti, as indicated in table 1; and (b) approve the two-year extension of the country programme for Paraguay, as indicated in table 2.

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Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original Programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations Harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Haiti	2009-2011	2012	The Integrated Mission Task Force approved an integrated strategic framework for Haiti on 17 January 2011. The time frame of the integrated strategic framework coincides with the remaining phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2009-2011. On 16 November 2010, the United Nations Development Group regional team for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the extension of the integrated strategic framework until 2012. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF are therefore extending their country programmes for one year, in order to align them with the integrated strategic framework.	The earthquake that devastated Haiti on 12 January 2010, claiming the lives of more than 220,000 people, necessitated the revision of development plans. The period covered by the integrated strategic framework corresponds with the time frame defined by the Government with regard to the action plan for national recovery and development. The integrated strategic framework also corresponds to the period identified by the United Nations Secretary-General as a time of high risk for peace consolidation in Haiti, in which political, security, protection and recovery objectives must be pursued simultaneously to preserve the political legitimacy of the Government and contribute to an enabling environment for recovery and development.	The recommendations of the country programme evaluation that is being conducted will be used to ensure alignment of the country programme action plan to the current national context and the changing priorities in the country.

Table 2. Extensions of UNFPA country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Paraguay	2007-2011	2012-2013	The Government has requested the extension of the current programming cycle instruments – the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the country programmes of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the country – in order to ensure their alignment with government planning processes during the forthcoming cycle (2008-2013).	The current Government came to power in 2008; its mandate ends in 2013. The Government has undertaken major changes in the administration and has given high priority to social issues. It has formulated and adopted new sector development strategies covering the entire period of its mandate. To demonstrate the commitment of the United Nations to aid effectiveness and to ensure more opportunities for strategic engagement with the Government and other national partners, the United Nations country team considers the alignment with the government planning cycle to be of critical importance.	The current UNFPA country programme remains valid as a framework for the continuation of UNFPA activities in Paraguay. The new national development plan, which is currently under discussion, and other sectoral plans already approved and being implemented, such as the national sexual and reproductive health strategic plan, the adolescent and youth health plan, the national gender equality opportunity plan and others will continue to guide the UNFPA programme. In addition, UNFPA will maintain its support for the national population and housing census planned for 2012.